

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, to read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing ~~a part~~ upper parts (4, 5) of a sports boot (1) in composite material from flat elements (21, 22), wherein the upper parts comprise two half-shells that cover lateral and medial, respectively, of the wearer's upper foot, wherein the method which comprises the following steps:

- preparing a first flat blank (22) in a first flexible material intended to form the external face of the boot part, and a second flat blank (21) in a second flexible material intended to form the internal face of the boot part (4, 5),
- providing a mold (30) comprising a first half (31) and a second half (32) having a three-dimensional impression of the boot part;
- placing the first and second flat blanks on the impression of the first half (31) of the mold (30), with the first blank (22) against the impression,
- closing the mold (30) by using the second half (32),
- injecting a foamable binding material between the blanks (21, 22), and
- mold release after polymerization of the injected material so as to obtain the boot part (4, 5) comprising the first and second blanks conformed to the three-dimensional impression of the boot part.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the part (4, 5) of the sports boot is a part of the upper of the boot.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first material comprises a synthetic fabric.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first material comprises an elastic fabric.

5. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first material is waterproofed by an elastomer.

6. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first material has a thickness of from 0.8 to 1 mm.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second material comprises a synthetic fabric.
8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second material comprises an elastic fabric.
9. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second material comprises a polyester ~~felt~~ felt-like material.
10. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the injected material is a polyurethane foam.
11. (Original) The method for manufacturing a part of a sports boot (1) as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one element (9a, 10, 11, 12, 23) is affixed to at least one of the blanks (21, 22), which is intended to form the internal or external face of the part, before it is placed in the injection mold (30).
12. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed part is a decorative pattern (23) applied by a screen printing method.
13. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is an eyelet (9a) for a lace.
14. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is a ring (10) for gripping.
15. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is a watertight flap (11).
16. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is a protecting tongue (12).
17. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is a reinforcing element.
18. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is a comfort element having a density different to that of the injected foamable material.
19. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the affixed element is a compartment intended to hold an injected personalization material.
20. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing an upper (2) of a sports boot (1), wherein parts (4, 5) of an upper which have been produced as claimed in claim 1 are assembled.

21. (Withdrawn) An upper (2) of a sports boot obtained by the method as claimed in claim 20.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the boot part (4, 5) obtained upon release from the mold has its final three-dimensional shape.